

579TH SMS NEWSLETTER

Volume 1

Created by Lt. Col. Claude Kitchens (ret) & Fred Mortimer

Greetings fellow 579th Missileers!!! This is our first edition of the (semi-annual) 579th SMS Newsletter. We hope that we can encourage all recipients of this document to search out as many members of the squadron as possible and forward their addresses to us as soon as possible. If all you have is an old mailing address for anyone you served with at Roswell, please provide that as well. We will try to research them as soon as we get them. We currently have approximately 130 former Crew and Maintenance personnel listed, and my best guess is that there were nearly 600 Officers and Enlisted men that served in the squadron. We have created a database (addresses and emails) of everyone who has responded to us in the past year. We will email a spreadsheet to anyone who may be interested.

We are also including the potential sites for the location of the 2006 Reunion. PLEASE TAKE TIME TO LET US KNOW YOUR CHOICE FOR WHERE YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE NEXT "GET TOGETHER"!! WE HOPE YOU WILL INDICATE YOUR FIRST CHOICE and an alternate..... We expect the reunion will probably be in the late spring or early summer (late April/early May)....**DEADLINE – Respond by 06/30/05**

For those of you who haven't attended any of the reunions, or haven't heard about them, we would like to provide a little history and pictures about the past get-togethers...

1998 – Las Vegas This was the first and maybe the smallest gathering 12-14 attended

2000 – Roswell Undoubtedly the largest, (and rowdiest) group, 55-60 were in attendance

- Tour of the old base and squadron hangar (which was next door to the infamous '1947 Alien' hangar. (Who knew?)
- We also had a tour of one of the silos (what was left of it!)



2002 – Cocoa Beach and Kennedy Space Center

- Approximately 35 – 40 in attendance
- Tour of the space center
- Escorted to observation tower to watch the shuttle return from space



2004 – Pismo Beach and Vandenburg A.F.B.

- Base tour with lunch at the 'O' Club
- Visited old launch sites and museum.



2006 REUNION

At the Pismo Beach/Vandenburg reunion, the attendees suggested that the next bi-annual meeting be held in the late spring of 2006 at one of the following locations:

Las Vegas, Nevada
New Orleans, Louisiana
Houston, Texas
San Antonio, Texas
Nashville, Tennessee

An agenda for the meeting is being developed. We will continue to attempt to contact our Historian, Terry Isaacs, regarding an update on his work. We will also contact the 'Reunion Brat' regarding arrangements, costs and potential entertainment. Of course, a large meeting room with good acoustics, will be requested for the continuing exposés that seem to be more revealing each year. **DEADLINE – Respond by 06/30/05**

Please contact Fred Mortimer at fmortimer@tampabay.rr.com with your choice (and alternate choice) for the reunion location. I can also be reached at **1-727-734-3487** or the following mailing address.

Frederick J. Mortimer
1610 Amberglen Drive
Dunedin, FL 34698

Thanks...Fred & Kitch